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15	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
		CISCO DIVISION
16	AMERICAN FEDERATION OF	
17	GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, et al.,	Case No. 3:25-cv-1780-WHA
18	Plaintiffs,	ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION TO SUBMIT
19	v.	LETTERS IN COMPLIANCE WITH COURT NOTICE UNDER SEAL
20	UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL	Honorable William H. Alsup
21	MANAGEMENT, et al.,	
22	Defendants.	
	,	<i>,</i>
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No. 3:25-cv-1780-WHA

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Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-11 and 79-5(c), Defendants move to provide under seal the corrective letters in compliance with this Court's Notice Re: Preliminary Injunction Compliance, ECF No. 237 ("Notice"). In that Notice, the Court stated that "[t]he government should be prepared with hard copies of the corrective letters sent by each agency." *Id.* at 2. Because the letters to the terminated probationers contain the personal identifying information ("PII") of the terminated probationers, Defendants and Plaintiffs both submit that this information should remain under seal.

The information Defendants seek to seal is not being submitted in support of any argument for relief on the merits but rather to comply with the Court's Notice, the "good cause" standard for sealing applies. *See Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Group*, LLC, 809 F.3d 1092, 1097 (9th Cir. 2016) (internal citations omitted). Even under the more stringent "compelling reasons" standard for sealing some information, courts in this District routinely order the sealing of third-party PII. *See, e.g., Opperman v. Path, Inc.*, No. 13-cv-453, 2017 WL 1036652, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2017) (exhibit containing "the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of non-part[ies]" provided "compelling reasons to seal [it] in its entirety").

In this case, there is both good cause and a compelling reason to protect federal employee PII from public disclosure here. First, absent an applicable exemption, the Privacy Act protects such information from disclosure. See 5 U.S.C. § 522a(b). Second, the federal employees identified in the letters are not parties to this litigation and have their own privacy interests; therefore there is no need for public disclosure of their identities or their PII at this point in the proceedings. See Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co., 331 F.3d 1122, 1137 (9th Cir. 2003) (recognizing the need to "protect third-party privacy interests" in "personnel records"). If sealing were denied, the names and PII of third-party employees will be exposed to public attention in this high-profile litigation.

## **CONCLUSION**

Defendants respectfully request this Court grant this Motion and permit an unredacted version of the corrective letters to be submitted under seal in hard copy form to the Court at the August 28, 2025, hearing.

DATED: August 26, 2025 Respectfully submitted, 1 CRAIG H. MISSAKIAN (CABN 125202) 2 United States Attorney PAMELA T. JOHANN (CABN 145558) 3 Chief, Civil Division KELSEY J. HELLAND (CABN 298888) Assistant United States Attorney U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 4 5 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36055 San Francisco, California 94102-3495 6 **BRETT A. SHUMATE** 7 Assistant Attorney General DIANE KELLEHER 8 **Branch Director** 9 CHRISTOPHER HALL **Assistant Branch Director** 10 JAMES D. TODD, JR. 11 Senior Trial Counsel 12 s/ Gregory B. Conner GREGORY B. CONNER 13 Trial Attorney U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 14 Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch P.O. Box 883 15 Washington, DC 20044 Counsel for Defendants 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Defendants' Admin. Mot. to Submit Letters in Compliance with Court Notice Under Seal No. 3:25-cv-1780-WHA